

CLAIMS:

1. A method of indelibly marking a label which includes a substrate and an adhesive layer the method characterised in that marking of the label is applied to the adhesive layer of the label with the resultant marking being visible through the substrate.
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2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the marking is applied by laser marking.
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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the marking is applied by ink-jet marking.
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4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the laser marking is achieved by using a green light laser or CO₂ based laser.
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5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein the adhesive layer includes a pigment or additive.
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6. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the marking is by hot-wax ink-jet printing.
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7. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least part of the marking is applied in a mirror or reverse image of that which is to be visible and readable through the substrate.

8. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein marking occurs during relative movement between the label and means for applying the marking.

- 5 9. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the marking applies one or more of text, alpha/numeric indicia, official seals, logos and graphical representations.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 substantially as herein described.

11. A label formed by a clear or transparent substrate to one surface of which is applied an adhesive layer, marking applied to the adhesive layer being visible through the substrate, said substrate being transparent or translucent.

12. A label as claimed in claim 11 wherein the label is in the form of a tape.

14. A label as claimed in claim 8 or 13 wherein the adhesive layer is a rubber based adhesive.

- 20 15. A label as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein a pigment is included in the adhesive layer.

- 25 16. A label as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 15 wherein the substrate is transparent or translucent and formed from polypropylene material.

17. A label as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 16 wherein the marking is a laser marking.

18. A label as claimed in claims 17 wherein the marking is a laser marking resulting from use of a vector based green light laser or CO₂ based laser.

5 19. A label as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 16 wherein the marking is effected by ink-jet printing.

20. A label as claimed in claim 19 wherein the ink-jet printing is a hot-wax process.

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21. A label as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein a pigment or adhesive is included in the adhesive layer.

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22. A label as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 21 wherein the label further includes one or more weakened portions or areas.

23. A label as claimed in claim 11 substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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